

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03153 281648Z

47

ACTION EUR-25

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TAGS:

SUBJ: CANADIAN FEDERAL COURT ORDERS RCMP TO GET BACK
CLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS REPORTEDLY CONTAINING
INFORMATION ABOUT US MILITARY INTELLIGENCE
OFFICERS OPERATING IN CANADA

1. THE GAZETTE OF MONTREAL PUBLISHED ON PAGE ONE, SEP 28,
THE FOLLOWING UPI STORY ON THE ABOVE SUBJECT:

BEGIN TEXT

THE FEDERAL COURT OF CANADA RULED YESTERDAY THAT THE
CONTROVERSIAL DOCUMENTS BEING HELD BY THE COURT IN A
SUIT FILED BY TWO FORMER RCMP OFFICERS SHOULD BE
RETURNED TO THE FEDERAL FORCE.

THE POLICE DOCUMENTS REPORTEDLY SHOW THE RCMP FEARS
IT HAS BEEN INFILTRATED BY ORGANIZED CRIME, USES
ILLEGAL WIRETAPS AND HAS GIVEN AT LEAST TACIT APPROVAL
TO OPERATIONS IN CANADA BY U.S. INTELLIGENCE AGENTS.

THE DOCUMENTS HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY ARTHUR CAMPEAU,
LAWYER FOR GILLES BRUNET AND DON MCCLEERY, OF MONTREAL,
TWO FORMER RCMP OFFICERS WHO HAD TAKEN THE FORCE TO COURT
TO SHOW CAUSE FOR THEIR DISMISSALS LAST YEAR.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 OTTAWA 03153 281648Z

IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, A CIVIL LIBERTIES LAWYER EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER FEDERAL JUSTICE MINISTER OTTO LANG'S USE OF EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE IN REFUSING TO MAKE PUBLIC CERTAIN DOCUMENTS INVOLVED IN THE CASE.

ALAN BOROVOY, CHIEF COUNSEL FOR THE CANADIAN CIVIL LIBERTIES ASSOCIATION, SAID THE FEDERAL COURT ACT SHOULD BE CHANGED BECUASE IT RISKS A WATERGATE-STYLE COVERUP.

THE FEDERAL COURT ACT SAYS A CABINET MINISTER CAN FILE AN AFFIDAVIT SAYING THE PRODUCTION OF A DOCUMENT WOULD BE "INJURIOUS TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, NATIONAL DEFENCE OR SECURITY..."

THE TORONTO STAR SAID YESTERDAY THAT LANG INTERFERRED IN THE CASE BECAUSE INFORMATION THAT WAS ABOUT TO COME OUT IN THE RCMP OFFICERS' APPEAL AGAINST THEIR DISMISSALS HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE RCMP BY AN "AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION."

THE PAPER SAID LANG'S REASON FOR KEEPING THE INFORMATION SECRET WAS CONTAINED IN AN AFFIDAVIT FILED WITH THE FEDERAL COURT OF CANADA IN OTTAWA WEDNESDAY.

THE MOUNTIES ABANDONED THEIR APPEAL AGAINST THEIR DISMISSALS THE SAME TIME AS THE AFFIDAVIT WAS FILED.

THEIR SUIT WAS WITHDRAWN THIS WEEK WHEN CAMPEAU READ THE PAPERS FILED WITH THE COURT TO JUSTIFY THE FIRINGS. HE SAID THEY CONTAINED ACCUSATIONS AND INNUENDOS WHICH HIS CLIENTS WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO REFUTE IN COURT. HE THEN ASKED THE DOCUMENTS BE RETURNED TO THE RCMP.

CAMPEAU SAID IN AN INTERVIEW HE HAD NOT SEEN THE COURT ORDER, BUT WAS ADVISED BY TELEPHONE THAT THE DOCUMENTS WERE TO BE RETURNED "FORTHWITH" TO RCMP COMMISSIONER M. J. NADON.

THE DOCUMENTS WERE NEVER MADE PUBLIC. WHEN THEY WERE HANDED OVER TO THE COURT, THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 OTTAWA 03153 281648Z

STAMPED EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE ON TWO OF THEM AND LATER ADDED TWO MORE TO THE LIST -- MAKING THOSE DOCUMENTS COMPLETELY UNAVAILABLE.

JUSTICE MINISTER OTTO LANG THURSDAY CONFIRMED THAT PART OF THE ALLEGATIONS ABOUT THE DOCUMENTS WERE CORRECT. HE ADMITTED THAT U.S. INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS DID OPERATE IN CANADA "FROM TIME TO TIME WITH THE CONSENT OF

ONE ARM OF GOVERNMENT OR ANOTHER."

HE DENIED REPORTS, HOWEVER THAT THE RCMP FEARED THEY WERE BEING INFILTRATED BY ORGANIZED CRIME, ALTHOUGH HE SAID THERE WERE REFERENCE TO "UNDERWORLD ACTIVITIES" IN THE FILES WIOHOUT SPECIFYING THE CONTEXT.

HE SAID ALSO THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE DOCUMENTS TO SHOW THE RCMP USED ILLEGAL WIRETAPS AS A MATTER OF COURSE.

A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT HAVE ALREADY STATED THEY INTEND TO ASK THE JUSTICE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE CLASSIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS IN LIGHT OF THIS CASE. END TEXT. PORTER

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